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State Department review completed

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GENERAL

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FAR EAST

3. Peiping admits difficulty in selling Soviet "friendship" to Chinese (page 4).

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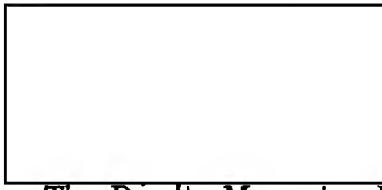
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FAR EAST

3. Peiping admits difficulty in selling Soviet "friendship" to Chinese:

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An official of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association has publicly admitted that the Chinese people remain suspicious of the USSR and resist Peiping's efforts to persuade them of Soviet "friendship."

The Deputy Managing Director of the Association, speaking over the Peiping radio on 21 September, conceded that it will be a difficult task to "expose and refute" the "rumors and slanders" about the USSR which have gained widespread currency. He denounced the "Chinese people's narrow nationalism" and the "resulting doubt and uneasiness"

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about the USSR, attitudes which are "incongruous with internationalism." The official recommended an intensified membership drive and propaganda effort by the association.

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Comment: The Sino-Soviet Friendship Association, which claims 16 million members in Communist China, is devoted to justifying Soviet policy in China and elsewhere.

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